

WOUNDS DRESSED IN STRONG BRINE.

Superintendent Pierce's
Method of Healing the
Cuts of the "Cat."

"First Aid for the Injured" That
Laid Young Marjory Up
for Months.

Another Day's Full Testimony to the
Brutal "Discipline" of
the Home.

KEROSENE MOUTH-WASH FOR SOME.

Public Sentiment in White Plains Be-
ginning to Affect the Stoical Super-
intendent.—Mrs. Hoe Greatly
Annoyed.

An inquiry into the charges of cruelty made against Superintendent J. W. Pierce, of the Westchester Home for Destitute Children, has been in progress before Judge Guernsey, as referee, in White Plains for several weeks. The testimony adduced, given chiefly by former inmates and assistant teachers of the Home, showed that great severity in discipline had existed; that small children had been severely and cruelly punished; and that young women of sixteen and eighteen years of age had been subjected to the lash. The feeling against Pierce has grown to such an extent in White Plains that an attempt was made on Sunday to hang him in effigy. It was frustrated, however, by Deputy Sheriff Verplanck.

There are two affidavits of James W. Pierce at White Plains. It was only through the vigilance of Deputy Sheriff Verplanck that a hostile demonstration against the superintendent of the Westchester Home was averted yesterday. As additional evidence has accumulated showing the brutality of the management of the institution to the young inmates the temper of the townfolk has risen, until now it is at the danger point.

An effigy of Pierce was to have been suspended across the main street of the town early yesterday morning, and the authorities took prompt measures to prevent it. The dummy was found hidden in a cellar and the Deputy Sheriff carried it away. A short time later another was found tied to a tree, labeled "Pierce, the Tyrant." This was also gotten out of the way before the town was astir.

Pierce lost some of his stately composure yesterday and flushed as he listened to the accusations made against him by former inmates of the institution. The stories told in the Auditorium were even more revolting in their barbarity than those heard at the last hearing.

The hall was crowded. The persons who made up the audience were serious-faced men and women, who were frequently moved to demonstration of their feelings during the narration of the stories.

They heard how a child, scarcely four years old had been beaten until its little body was covered with bruises. The child's mother told it in a trembling voice, and her testimony was borne out by persons of social standing, whose only interest in the affair is to see that the whole of the revolting truth is known.

There was testimony, too, from an unwilling witness, to whom Pierce himself has given a good character. She told of cruelties to herself and of seeing children whipped with a strap so cruelly as to raise bloody welts wherever the lash fell.

Wounds Bathed in Brine.

Walter Marjory was one of the victims; perhaps the most inhumanly treated. If several witnesses are to be fully credited, after an unmerciful beating he was bathed in salt and water. That is the evidence that ex-Judge Mills, counsel for the defense, tried hard to disprove in most of his cross-examination. It was over this, too, that Colonel A. B. Crane, of Crane & Lockwood, attorneys of this city, conferred with the men who are working hard in the cause of the Superintendent.

Colonel Crane is one of the Board of Managers. He was not the only one present. The ladies have been unwavering in their support of Pierce since he has been placed in the pillory of accusation. They have apparently made it a duty to watch every detail of the hearing with the keenest interest, from their seats in front, where they could look full at the witnesses.

The name of Mrs. R. M. Hoe was mentioned several times in the testimony. She scarcely looks like a woman who would be guilty of cruelty to children, such as was alleged yesterday. She is one of the most active supporters of the Home. She has soft, dim-looking brown eyes set in dark hollows that may have been caused by recent worry and anxiety. Her lips are thin and moist closely. Her features are sharp, and when she turns her face sideways one can see the line of the jaw begin prominently just under the ear and sweep to the chin. The chin is sharp. There is a little short line at each corner of her mouth, and these contracted abruptly as she listened to some of yesterday's evidence. There are four lines across her forehead, smooth in repose, that appeared and disappeared at intervals. She cast her eyes down frequently and took notes of the evidence.

Pierce's Bitter Day. A 308
Superintendent Pierce was obviously nervous, and he flushed at times. It was probably the hardest day he has yet faced, and his counsel, reinforced by Colonel Crane, made a stubborn fight, contesting every inch of evidence. A detective from an agency in this city sat near the stenographer, listening to the testimony and narrowly watching each witness. It was clear

soon after the hearing was opened that the plan was to assail the character of the witnesses and thus impugn their testimony.

Nettie Gilbert, a comely young colored woman, testified she had been in the Home for nine years. She did general housework. She saw Martha Evans whipped with nothing more than a sheet between her body and the lash. The punishment was inflicted with a strap, and the body of the child became black and blue. She had also seen several small children whipped about the legs, on which there was no covering. The ears of children were frequently pulled. She said that the light cut-of-nine-tails in evidence was not similar to the one used in these punishments. That was heavier. One boy was wounded by blows from a strap with a buckle attached. The blows cracked the skin. She saw boys chained singly and together. The chains in evidence were not of the same kind. She saw the hair of inmates cut in furrows through the middle, at the sides and on one side.

A letter sent from Pierce to the witness was put in evidence. It was written after she had left the Home, and it gave her an excellent character.

An Unprejudiced Witness.

Mr. Mills, in cross-examination, tried to show that Nettie was offended because Pierce had not called upon her and tried to connect Albert Jackson and a newspaper with the story she told. Letters from the woman to Pierce showed that she held him in kindly esteem. Yes, he had punished her; he used a strap once, and then a "padding stick."

"He told me to hold out my hand," said she. "I did so, holding the palm upward. He said: 'Turn your hand over.' I did so, and he rapped me across the knuckles good and hard." Here the witness gave way and sobbed.

When Thomas Owens, of Brewster, was called the defense raised an objection to his testimony because they had not had three days' notice. Mr. Dykman said that he understood that this stipulation had been waived, and wanted the examination of the witness to proceed. Mr. Mills made a vigorous objection.

"They do not want to hear what this man has to say," declared Mr. Dykman. "They have used every means in their power to stifle this investigation."

"It is not so," retorted Mr. Mills, his usually calm voice rising to a high pitch. He emphasized his words with his clenched hand as he said: They have influenced this case by the most abhorrent measures, and we will prove it."

"Shall we examine the witness?" asked Mr. Dykman, addressing Referee Guernsey. "They are afraid!"

The audience broke into applause, and a court officer threatened to clear the hall. Owens was excused.

Mrs. Gould, the wife of a civil engineer, who lives at Yonkers, testified that she made her home in White Plains until 1882. Her next door neighbor was Mrs. Lyman. In whose employ was the mother of Albert Eden. The boy was four years old when he was in the Home, and when taken away by his mother was covered with black and blue marks. Mrs. Lyman's daughter saw these marks, as did also the managers of St. John's Hospital, whither the child was taken.

Took Her Children Away.

Mrs. Brunner, mother of the boy, told of his condition.

"You had at that time three children in the Home," A.—Yes.

Q.—What year was it? A.—1881.

Q.—Were the children taken there first, or had they been in any other institution? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Did you take them all away after Albert? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you mean to say that Pierce punished them, A.—No, sir.

Q.—Who did? A.—A nurse, Mrs. Wilson.

Mrs. Mary Scragham, widow of a Supreme Court Judge, testified to the condition of the child when she saw it in the hospital, when Albert Jackson was called.

This Albert Jackson is a colored railroad porter, and the defense objected to him because there was also a white Albert Jackson to be called and that there was a confusion of identities. The witness was admitted.

He said the "cat" in use, when he was an inmate of the Home was unlike the one on exhibition. He saw boys whipped with a strap three inches broad, but never saw them wearing chains or shackles. "I once saw a boy whipped and bathed in salt and water," said he.

Q.—Was he white or colored? A.—White.

Q.—Did you help? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Did you bring the water, A.—No, sir.

Q.—With what was he whipped? A.—A horse-whip.

Q.—Who gave him the bath? A.—He was made to take it himself.

Q.—Who made him do it? A.—Mr. Pierce.

Q.—What was the condition of the boy after the whipping, A.—The skin was broken and his wounds were bleeding.

Q.—Where were you at the time? A.—I was under a table.

Q.—How long were you under the table? A.—From 10 o'clock in the morning until 10 o'clock at night, except the time I went to meals.

Q.—For what were you put there? A.—I don't remember, but I was put there.

Q.—Do you remember any other cases, A.—I saw a boy's tongue scrubbed with sand and kerosene.

Q.—Who was present at the time? asked Mr. Dykman.

"Mrs. Hoe," firmly answered the witness.

Mrs. Hoe Annoyed.

The little woman sitting to the left of Superintendent Pierce dropped her eyes and the fingers of her gloved hand beat a tattoo in the air. Then Mr. Mills began the cross-examination. The witness said he finally left the Home in the Spring of 1886.

Q.—When was it you saw the strap used? A.—The last year I was at the Home at White Plains.

Q.—In 1885 or 1886? A.—In 1886.

Q.—You saw the cat used at Pleasantville? A.—Yes.

Q.—The strap also? A.—Yes.

Q.—Where was the boy whipped and bathed in salt and water? A.—At White Plains.

Q.—When? A.—In 1886.

Q.—At what time of the year? A.—Probably in the Winter.

Q.—At what time of day? A.—Night.

Q.—At what time? A.—About 10 o'clock. I was still under the desk.

Q.—Where was the desk? A.—In the main hall.

Q.—Who was the boy? A.—I do not know his name. I was there so short a time then. He was about fifteen years old.

Q.—Did you ever talk with him? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Do you know what he had done? A.—He had run away from the place and was brought back and punished.

Q.—How old were you then? A.—About twelve years old.

Q.—Why did you not tell the people about it? A.—It was none of my business. I was not interested in it.

The witness then told, under the questioning by Mr. Dykman, how several boys, who were on an excursion from Pleasantville to Rye, were punished for jumping over a wall and picking up apples in an orchard. They had placards pinned to their backs bearing the inscription: "I am a thief."

"There is no cruelty about that," said Mr. Mills.

"No," retorted Mr. Dykman, "it was a compulsion. I have yet to hear of a parent that would do that sort of thing to his child."

Fed on Bread and Water.

John Evans, who testified a week ago yesterday that Superintendent Pierce had tied him up by the thumbs, was recalled. He corroborated the testimony of the preceding witness regarding the placard incident. After he had run away, he said, he was chained to his bed and fed on bread and water. He said the bread was not fit to eat.

"Did you eat at all?" he was asked.

"The bread smelled of fish," he replied. "I ate part of it and then threw the rest in the slop pail. Pierce heard of what I had done. He came up and tried to force me to take it out of the pail and eat it. I refused."

Cross-examination was deferred.

After David Baker, a little colored lad, had testified to seeing several boys whipped a recess was taken.

Just before the afternoon session Pierce entered the hall through the side entrance. There was quite a gathering of sturdy farmers at the main entrance, discussing the case in a manner no way complimentary to the Superintendent. He took his seat at the side of his counsel's table and kept his gray eyes fixed on the curjain before him. Mr. Dykman recalled Nettie Gilbert.

"When were you subpoenaed?" he asked.

"On Saturday," she replied.

"How much money were you given?"

"I object," said Mr. Mills, rising.

"The accusation has been made," said Mr. Dykman to the referee, "that we have brought witnesses here under pay, and I wish to disprove the statement."

Nettie, told to answer, said that Mr. Acton had come to her house, and the only money she received was 50 cents witness fee.

Q.—Were you promised money by any person whatever? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Were you here last Monday? A.—Yes.

Q.—Under subpoena? A.—No.

Q.—Did you meet Mrs. Hoe?

Mr. Mills was on his feet again with an objection.

Mrs. Hoe's Interference.

"The question is perfectly relevant," said Mr. Dykman. "Mrs. Hoe is one of the lady managers, and I desire to show how the lady managers are working in this case. This witness was approached and upbraided last week because it was supposed she was here under subpoena."

There was a stir among the lady managers, and the four lines appeared across the brow of the thin-faced little woman with the brown eyes. The question, however, was not admitted.

The white Albert Jackson took the stand and told that he was a wagon and sign painter, and made his home in Yonkers. He was sent to the home on August 11, 1882, and remained there three years, three months and fourteen days. He saw the brow of the thin-faced strap and several other things besides the cat, used. The cat at that time was made up of a hickory stick sixteen inches long, with twenty-eight shoestrings of porpoise hide. It was soaked in water every night. One was worn out every two weeks. He declared he was punished every day for nearly two years because of a complaint.

Q.—Have you seen other boys punished? A.—Yes.

Q.—How many? A.—I have seen so many that to tell them I would have to name nearly the whole school. Walter Marjory was punished worse than any boy I ever saw.

Q.—How? A.—One afternoon he ran away and Pierce caught him at the depot. He made me and "Joe" Evans take the settee out of the hall to the front step. Then he took off Marjory's clothes and whipped him for about an hour and a half. I was on the outside. He ordered me to ring the bell if any one came. Afterward, I was sent to the kitchen for salt.

Martha Evans, who was there, showed me where to get it, and I got a scoopful. Then we got a tub made of half a barrel, filled it with water, put in the salt, and we three put the boy into it. He had laid on the floor insensible for some time. He had closed his eyes and Pierce reversed the whip and knocked him on the head, making him insensible.

Q.—Did Pierce say anything to your mother when she visited the Home? A.—Yes. He patted me on the head and said I was one of the best boys in the place and that I would make a good man.

Prayed with His Eyes Open.

Witness said that when Theresa See came up Pierce sent for him and wanted him to sign a letter, saying that at no time was the punishment he received at the Home unwarranted. Jackson said he refused to do so. Then he related how Pierce had ill-used children in Sunday school.

"When at prayer," said Jackson, "Pierce always prayed with his eyes open. Some of the children would grow tired and look through their hands. He would single them out and spank them and then resume the prayer. He would sometimes knock them down with a prayer book."

He related also the method of chaining boys together. They were generally chained so that they both faced the same way. On one occasion two boys so shackled ran a three-legged race. Pierce then chained them so as to face in opposite directions, so that either of them was forced to walk backward.

Here a certificate was placed in evidence showing that Jackson had been perfect for one hundred weeks in his lessons while at the Home.

"During the occurrences of which you speak were any of the Board of Managers present?" asked Mr. Dykman.

"Yes," answered the witness with spirit, and waving his hand in the direction of Mrs. Hoe. "Mrs. Hoe often scoured the children's tongues with ashes and kerosene. She has often scoured mine."

Every eye in the house was turned to the lady, who flushed painfully.

Q.—(By Mr. Mills.)—You have taken much interest in this case? A.—I have.

Q.—You have been devoting much of your time to it? A.—Yes; four weeks of my time.

Q.—Who employed you? A.—I employed myself.

Q.—You say you have neither been paid nor promised payment? A.—That's what I say.

Q.—Have you told any person that you received pay? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Is it true that you felt of hostility to Mr. Pierce? A.—I have every reason to have.

Q.—Have you anything outside of the Home against Mr. Pierce? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Do you know Viola Finch? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Did you visit her at the Home? A.—Yes, sir, two years ago.

Q.—Did not Mr. Pierce take you to task, accusing you of seducing the girl? A.—No, sir. He called me into his office and said, 'Jackson, you had better keep away from that girl. She is no fit companion for you.'

Did Not Reb His Father.

A letter to him from his father was offered in evidence, but was not admitted. Mrs. Mills was permitted to question him thus:

Q.—Did you steal \$15 from your father? A.—I can relate the circumstances.

Q.—Answer, yes or no? A.—No.

Q.—Did you get a duplicate key and gain access to the money? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Is it true that your father placed you at several places and that you ran away? A.—No, sir. As to running away, yes; because he threatened to send me to the Home.

Questioned about the beating of Walter Marjory, he said the boy lay senseless in a pool of blood and that blood was even spattered on the side wall.

Q.—The boy was insensible? A.—Yes, until he was placed in the salt and water. Then he let out a shriek that the other persons in the Home heard.

Q.—Who washed him? A.—He was expected to do it, but he couldn't. He was put to bed, where he remained for two months.

Q.—Were there other beds in the dormitory? A.—Yes. There was a boy chained in one of the beds.

Q.—Did you see Marjory's wounds? A.—Yes; I pulled off the covers and looked at them.

Kerosene as a Mouth Wash.

"When did you see Mrs. Hoe scour the boys' tongues?"

"Many a time," was the answer. "Every time she came she asked for the 'tattle tale.' Then she had a boy bring some kerosene in a saucer. Ashes were used and sometimes bath brick."

"How often did she do this?"

"She scoured my tongue several times, at least."

"Will you say twenty times?"

"I might be safe in saying twenty—no more."

Harry Weeks, the lad who recently escaped from the Home and whose case brought about the present investigation, was the next witness. He said he had been chained by Pierce and told how he ran away and was captured at Glenville. He had been whipped with the cat. At present he is working in New York.

John Evans was then called for cross-examination, and said when he was tried up by the thumbs for twenty minutes he was only nine years old. The referee permitted a physician from the Home to ex-

amine the thumbs. Evans said that William Hallett, a workman about the place, saw him tied up.

The witness was minutely questioned concerning his life in and out of the Home. He was asked regarding several allegations of theft against him, and denied them all, save one. He admitted he had stolen some wheat.

He said he saw Walter Marjory after his flogging. It was coming up to bed, and had his clothes wrapped about him. John Rendie was at one time also badly cut up.

Witness saw Pierce strike Mamie Turner on the side of the head in Sunday school. The child was no more than three years old, and one of the smallest girls in the Home. The hearing was adjourned until Monday next.

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Thief at the Dobbs Ferry School for Young Ladies.

After the robber, who had gained an entrance to the place by prying open a window, had taken Miss Strong's watch and money he commanded her to get up to the second floor of the school, where he could get more plunder. The cross at the top of the stairs indicates where the intruder stood, and the other point where Miss Strong was standing when she aroused another teacher by loud talking and forced the man to flee.

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